

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY  
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**FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

**LS 6097**

**BILL NUMBER:** SB 86

**NOTE PREPARED:** Nov 29, 2011

**BILL AMENDED:**

**SUBJECT:** Disabled Veteran Hunting and Fishing Licenses.

**FIRST AUTHOR:** Sen. Steele

**FIRST SPONSOR:**

**BILL STATUS:** As Introduced

**FUNDS AFFECTED:**    **GENERAL**  
                          **X DEDICATED**  
                          **X FEDERAL**

**IMPACT:** State

**Summary of Legislation:** This bill establishes a reduced-fee lifetime hunting, fishing, and trapping license for disabled veterans who are Indiana residents.

**Effective Date:** July 1, 2011.

**Explanation of State Expenditures:**

**Explanation of State Revenues:** The bill provides that a qualified veteran may obtain a comprehensive lifetime license to hunt, fish, and trap by paying a reduced license fee of \$50. The comprehensive license would allow qualified veterans to take any allowable species of fish or wildlife without purchasing additional stamps. (The DNR reported that with the exception of senior fish-for-life licenses, lifetime licensing was discontinued July 1, 2005.)

Currently, a resident veteran with a service-connected disability may purchase an annual fishing license for \$2.75; an annual small game hunting license for \$2.75; a combination hunting and fishing license for \$2.75; and an annual undiscounted license to trap for \$17. (Current undiscounted license fees are the following: annual fishing license for \$17.00; an annual small game hunting license for \$17.00; a combination hunting and fishing license for \$25.00; and an annual license to trap for \$17.) Discounted license fees are for basic licenses; game bird, waterfowl, deer, turkey, trout, and salmon stamps must be purchased separately at the regular price. DNR reported the following numbers of discounted basic licenses sold to qualifying resident veterans.

<b>DAV Discounted Hunting/ Fishing Licenses Sold CY 2010</b>		
<b>Basic License</b>	<b>Number Sold</b>	<b>Gross Revenue</b>
Resident DAV Fishing @ \$2.75	1,225	\$3,369
Resident DAV Hunting @ \$2.75	200	\$550
Resident DAV (Combo) @ \$2.75	4,850	\$13,338
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,275</b>	<b>\$17,257</b>

(This information does not include revenues associated with trapping license sales. Trapping is an activity for which there currently is no DAV discounted license. DNR has no data to indicate the number of qualified veterans that purchase trapping licenses.)

The reduction in state revenue that would occur as a result of the lifetime hunting/fishing /trapping proposal will depend on the number and ages of qualifying veterans who apply to purchase the lifetime license compared with the number and type of licenses and stamps, if any, that the qualified veteran would have otherwise purchased. The DNR indicated that in CY 2010, there were approximately 52,000 Indiana veterans with a service-connected disability.

If all qualified resident veterans that currently purchase combination licenses purchased the lifetime license, the Fish and Wildlife fund could potentially see a one-time peak in revenue of approximately \$225,243.  $[(4,850 \times \$50) - \$13,338]$  Without any consideration of the impact of trapping fees, the purchase of a basic hunting and fishing license would break even for a qualified veteran after 18 years. If the veteran hunts or fishes for game or fish for which stamps are currently required, the breakeven point would occur sooner. The bill does not include minimum age limits. DNR would lose revenues associated with the resident purchase of stamp privileges for the following: game bird and waterfowl stamps (\$6.75); turkey hunting (\$25); deer hunting (\$24); and trout & salmon fishing (\$11). Revenues would be reduced by an indeterminable amount subject to the numbers of qualified DAV lifetime license holders who would no longer be required to purchase the applicable stamps. Additionally, revenues would be reduced by the number of trapping licenses that may be currently purchased by qualified veterans who would purchase a lifetime license. DNR could potentially lose an indeterminate amount of revenue for lifetime licenses that would be used in excess of the 18-year breakeven point.

In order to receive federal reimbursement for each license sold, the DNR must charge a fee that is commensurate with the normal cost for that privilege. The DNR receives \$24.69 for each certified hunter and \$9.11 per angler in 2011 in sport wildlife restoration monies. The rate changes annually depending upon the number of license holders and the amount of tax collected on the sale of firearms, ammunition, archery equipment, and fishing gear.

Revenue from the sale of hunting licenses goes into the dedicated Fish and Wildlife Fund that is used to pay the operating expenses of the DNR Divisions of Law Enforcement and Fish and Wildlife. Revenue from the sale of stamp privileges goes to dedicated funds that have directed uses for the purposes of managing the fish or game for which the stamp is issued.

#### **Explanation of Local Expenditures:**

**Explanation of Local Revenues:**

**State Agencies Affected:** Department of Natural Resources.

**Local Agencies Affected:**

**Information Sources:** DNR

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